COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, March 5, 1982

Present: J. Chaikelson, Acting Chairman, R. Breen, Vice-Rector Academic, R. Pallen, M. Singer, J. Princz, R. Martin, A. Sharma, C. Bertrand, K. Bindon, S. Casey, U. Comtois, R. Diubaldo, J. Doyle, H. Fink, L. Houle, J. Lightstone, J. Macaluso, K. Macdonald, S. McEvenue, B. Petrie, H. Proppe, E. Raudsepp, K. Riener, A. Ross, J. Ryan, B. Sahni, O. Schwelb, M. Shames, M. Squires, G. Taggart, M. Taylor, P. Thornton, G. Trudel, F. MacLeod, D. Blackadder, A. Goldstein, J. Kinloch, J. Griffin, D. Clark.

Absent with regrets: D. Taddeo, K. Bindon, B. Lewis, K. Kusano, C. Langford, D. McDougall, D. Dicks.

Guests: M. Baldwin, J. Welsh, G. Decarie (SCPA).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Dean Chaikelson who chaired the meeting in the place of Dean Taddeo who was ill.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dean Chaikelson asked to have the document number listed in item 6 on the agenda to ASFC 82-3-D1.

82-3-1 It was moved and seconded (Pallen/Fink) to approve the agenda as corrected. Vote: Carried

3. The Vice-Rector's Remarks

Dean Chaikelson announced that Dr. Breen, Vice-Rector Academic, had asked to speak to Council prior to the closed session.

Dr. Breen commenced his remarks by saying that there were two things he wanted to speak to Council about: 1. the good news received from Quebec City whereby the Ministry had authorized the granting of 2.4 million dollars for Concordia. He thought this was significant in two respects - one, that there was only five million dollars left in the kitty to be distributed to universities and Concordia was given 2.4 million, the other 2.6 million was given to U.Q.U.A.M. Secondly, the Minister, in recommending the grant to the Cabinet, and subsequently to the Press, indicated that the rationale for it was that he was convinced that Concordia had managed their funds in a most responsible manner. He added that the grant does not resolve all our problems, however, it does alleviate the situation somewhat.

Dr. Breen's second subject was the matter which had occupied the press in the few days prior to this meeting regarding a proposal for an exchange between Concordia University and King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia. In order to remove any ambiguity he presented the facts regarding the events which led

up to the present discussion. The text of the Vice-Rector's statement follows:

> In September 1980, Dr. Michael Oliver, Director of the International Development Office of the AUCC made a visit to Saudi Arabia to investigate the possibilities of collaboration between Canadian Universities and the Universities of Saudi Arabia. This visit was the result of a suggestion made by the then Canadian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr. William Jenkins. The Rector of Riyadh University had previously expressed a view to the Canadian Ambassador that the Saudi Arabian Universities might well be interested in developing cooperative programmes with Canadian Universities. The University of Toronto had already entered into negotiations with the University of Riyadh with a view to reaching an agreement in the matter of Engineering.
>
> Dr. Michael Oliver, on behalf of the AUCC, organized a Canadian Universities Mission to Saudi Arabia, May 1st-13th, 1981. This Mission consisted of the following people: Dr. M.K. Oliver - the Coordinator, Mr. A. Advokaat - Counsellor, Canadian Embassy to Saudi Arabia, Dr. D.G. Howell - University of Guelph, Mr. M. Kamal - McGill University, Dr. R. Missen - University of Toronto, Dr. D. Potvin - Concordia University.
>
> Originally Dean Swamy was to be included in the group; however, at the last minute, other commitments prevented him from leaving Canada and he was replaced by Dr. Potvin.
>
> Dr. J. Jabra of St. Mary's University was also included in the mission but circumstances at St. Mary's prevented him from travelling with the main party; he followed later.
>
> The Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Jacques Roy, accompanied the Mission to three of the four Universities visited.
>
> On June 15, 1981, the Secretary of State for External Affairs wrote to the Rector in which he stated: "...I strongly support links between Canadian and Saudi Universities, as this is important in the rapidly expanding bilateral relationship between Canada and Saudi Arabia. ....At the same time I am glad to offer the services of the Canadian Embassy in Jedda and of the Department of External Affairs - to the extent of their resources - whenever their assistance can facilitate your efforts."
>
> On June 22, 1981, the Rector acknowledged receipt of MacGuigan's letter and thanked him for the offer of the services at the Canadian Embassy and of the Ministry of External Affairs.
>
> In October 1982, a delegation arrived from King Faisal University to visit several Universities in Canada. This delegation included the Rector of King Faisal University, the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, the Dean of the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, the Dean of the College of Architecture and the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Foods.

This delegation visisted McGill, Concordia, Guelph and the University of Toronto. On January 6, 1982, the Rector of King Faisal University wrote to Dr. O'Brien:- "We admire the achievement that your university has reached. Your work in the area of Building Studies and Communication Program are of special value to us. Therefore, I would like to express the desire of our University to establish a bilateral relationship between Concordia University and King Faisal University to cooperate in the previously mentioned fields. This cooperation will include the following forms:

- Exchange of faculty members.
- Faculty members and consultants coming from your university for long and short term contracts.
- Placement of our graduate students in your programmes.
- Conducting research projects of mutual interests.
- Exchange of educational materials.
- Exchange of faculty members' visits.

Therefore, I will highly appreciate it if you please inform us of the procedures and the form that your university would like to follow regarding such cooperation."

On January 7th, the Rector of Concordia sent a copy of this letter to the two Vice-Rectors, Academic and he added: "I have asked Doug Potvin to gather material on the kind of contractual arrangements that have been used between North American and Saudi universities. We whould then consider the reply to be made to this letter."

On January 21, 1982, the Rector sent a telegram to the Rector of King Faisal University in which he stated: "Your letter regarding bilateral relationship has been received. A letter of response will be forwarded to you in the near future. I appreciate your interest and confidence in Concordia University and I will look forward to further discussions regarding the proposed relationship between our universities."

Towards the end of February, McGill informed King Faisal University of their pleasure in proposing plans for cooperation in medicine, architecture, urban planning and education. Agriculture would be a joint venture with Guelph University. Guelph had already responded affirmatively to the invitation of King Faisal University.

On February 22nd, I received a copy of a first draft of a proposal for a bilateral agreement between King Faisal University and Concordia. A copy of this proposal was also forwarded to the Rector, Vice-Rector John Daniel, the two Deans and the two Department Chairmen concerned. It was Dr. Potvin's intention to get the reaction of the two departments involved regarding the feasibility of the project and the content of the proposed draft before proceeding any further. There are no discriminatory conditions contained in this proposal.

On Wednesday last, Lindsay Crysler gave me a copy of the memo which he had sent to his faculty members for discussion in which he stated that members of the Jewish faith would be excluded from participating in this agreement. He also said that the Assistant Vice-Rector and Director of Continuing Education had memtioned this to him orally. I discussed this matter with Dr. Potvin who admitted saying this to Professor Crysler, but he claims that this was rather a personal view and that we should be conscious of this problem before a final decision is taken. I asked him to check with the Saudi Arabian Embassy to find out the stance of the Saudi Arabian authorities. Their response was that it was not their intention to include any discriminatory clauses or conditions to the agreement. Dr. Potvin also stressed that the personal view of caution expressed to Lindsay Crysler was not the result of anything which the Saudi Arabian authorities had said or had implied.

I said yesterday during an interview with CFCF that if there were any discriminatory clauses included I would not support any final decision to conclude a bilateral entente for an exchange with King Faisal University.

Dean Chaikelson thanked Vice-Rector Breen for addressing Council.

Prof. Lightstone stated that the University had not made its stance clear.

Dean Chaikelson reported that the Deans and Provost were very concerned with the nature of the publicity and had written a statement to the Senior Administration as well as the Faculty of Arts and Science: "In light of The Gazette article of March 4, 1982 'Saudi students splits Concordia', we, the Academic Deans of the Concordia Faculty of Arts and Science, would like to go on record as opposing any agreements which discriminate against members of the Concordia community on any grounds. We therefore wish to strongly object to and disassociate ourselves from any arrangements which our Continuing Education Department may be negotiating with any country which practices any form of discrimination considered illegal in Canada."

The statement was also sent to The Gazette and The Link.

Prof. McEvenue reported that the Principals of the Colleges, as a group, had written a similar letter to The Gazette.

Also, Dr. Sahni said that the Chairmen of Division II had issued a similar statement and that in a Department meeting held that morning a motion was passed which stated: "If there is any truth in the newspaper story that negotiations are being carried on between any department in Concordia and universities in Saudi Arabia that involve discriminatory contractual arrangements, the Department of Economics wishes to go on record as being opposed. The Economics Department believes that in the light of conflicting information it is imperative that the entire University community be kept fully informed."

Provost Singer explained that the reason the Deans had written their letter was partially in response to the communique issued by Graham Martin which left out the statement that the University was opposed to discrimination against members of any sector of the University community.

Dr. Breen replied that the Administration intended to issue such a statement and that the University was taking all the necessary steps to make sure that this particular issue is discussed as openly as possible at all levels.

82-3-2 It was moved and seconded (Trudel/Macdonald) that the University pay for an advertisement in The Gazette which clearly addresses itself to our position as a University against any contractual arrangement that even suggests discrimination of any form.

The Chairman ruled that the motion would have to be taken as a "notice of motion" to be dealt with at the end of the meeting under item 10 - Other Business.

Closed Session

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Open Session

5. Approval of Minutes

82-3-4 It was moved and seconded (McEvenue/Sahni) to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 1982.

Vote: Carried

6. Chairman's Remarks

Dean Chaikelson reported that at the last Senate meeting literacy requirements for graduation were approved and a committee was set up to work on the logistics that that approval entails. The final report will be presented to Council. The committee will include, in addition

to one faculty member and one student from each Faculty, an expert (non-voting) from TESL, English, and Etudes Françaises.

7. Ratification of the Recreation and Leisure Studies Graduation Award

At the last meeting of Council the establishment of an award for Recreation and Leisure Studies was approved pending receipt of a statement concerning the conditions under which the award would be given. Dean Chaikelson read a letter from Prof. Swedburg, Director of Recreation and Leisure Studies (ASFC 82-3-D3, uncirculated) in which he stated that a medal should be given to a student selected by a committee; to be based on academic achievement and contributions to the programme.

82-3-4 It was moved and seconded (Petrie/Taggart) to approve an award in Recreation and Leisure Studies to go the the most outstanding graduating student in the programme. Vote: Carried

It was left to the Registrar to determine if the terminology used in the name of the prize was correct.

8. Curriculum Committee Report 31U - Special Summer Session Courses for 1982 (ASFC 82-3-D2)

82-3-5 It was moved and seconded (Taggart/MacLeod) to approve the report on courses in French to be offered in the Special Summer Session of 1982. Vote: Carried

9. Registration and Course Change Procedures

In presenting Steering Committee's proposal to Council, Prof. McEvenue said that it had been brought to its attention that the experience of registration at Christmas, despite the reactions to the registration experience of September, enlisted a great deal of frustration and anger with the result that the Steering Committee prepared a motion for Council to establish a committee. It was felt that the question of registration, and how to improve registration, was too complex to be discussed either by a Council of this size or by an individual interested in it. He said there was a feeling that regulation procedures of registration, because they are uniform across the whole University, may fit other Faculties without fitting ours or may extend procedures, which are appropriate in one department, to other departments where they are counter-productive. It was felt that it was not a question of tinkering with the existing system but rather to take an outside look at it to determine the objectives of registration in general and, if possible, doing away with it. He cited the procedure at Harvard where students at the undergarduate level don't register until after the courses have started, and where no line-ups occur for registration. In any case whatever is possible would need a look from the outside and it was hoped that in this way it might be possible to turn the anger of individuals, which is quite real and quite justified, into a collective fruitful position that might in fact produce some practical

effects. He continued by saying the Steering Committee's proposal was that a committee be struck with three faculty members and two students; that the terms of reference had been drawn up in ASFC82-3-D2 as well as a list of names: S. Carter, Chairman of Applied Social Science and who has a doctorate in Administrative Behaviour, Prof. R. Roy, Biology, and Prof. E. Ginter, History, all of whom had agreed to sit on the committee, and that the student caucus would name two student members. Prof. McEvenue concluded his remarks by saying it was felt that the committee might actually provide a lever which, instead of pooling angers, might force a change by suggesting, for example, that the Arts and Science Committee will cooperate in registration in the fall provided that the following changes are made, or something of that kind.

82-3-6 It was moved and seconded (McEvenue/Trudel) that a committee as described in document ASFC 82-3-D2 be struck.

Dean Chaikelson asked how redundant this was with the committee that is working on student advising.

Prof. McEvenue replied that the first part of the mandate was to examine the reports and recommendations made by University Task Forces studying problems in registration and course change procedures, and that the question of advising was a larger question while this question was very precise and of narrow focus and a study could be made in a very short time.

The discussion proceded, the question was called, a vote was taken on calling the question and was carried.

The question was called on the motion and was carried.

82-3-7 It was moved and seconded (McEvenue/Sahni) to approve a committee of five members - Profs. S. Carter (App. Soc. Sc.), R. Roy (Biology), E. Ginter (History), and two students - Jim Griffin and Francesca Worrall; the Chairman to be chosen by the members from within its group.

There were no nominations from the floor.

The question was called on the motion and was carried.

10. Other Business - Saudi Arabian Universities Entente

Motion ASFC82-3-2 presented to Council at the beginning of the meet- was read and discussion on the topic was resumed.

82-3-8 It was moved and seconded (Singer/Riener) to amend the motion to - that the Rector be directed to undertake an investigation of the matter and to make a strong public statement clarifying Concordia's stance, and that only if that does not receive the proper attention should a full-page add be placed in The Gazette.

Dr. Sahni suggested that instead of placing a statement in The Gazette, the Rector should be urged to call a press conference, as soon as possible after his return to Montreal, to clarify the situtation

A debate over the merits of placing an advertisement in The Gazette versus the holding of a press conference followed and a sizable speakers list was exhausted.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the amendment was accepted in place of the original motion. It was edited to read - in light of the University position outlined by Dr. Breen, Vice-Rector, Academic, at the Faculty Council meeting of March 5, 1982, that under no circumstance will Concordia tolerate discrimination towards any sector of the University, we strongly urge the Rector to investigate conflicting reports concerning Concordia's discussions with Saudi Arabian Universities and to make a full and final public statement (perhaps at a press conference) which would clarify the University's position; if all else fails, that the University place an advertisement in The Gazette.

The motion, in its edited form, was voted on and was carried.

11. Next Meeting

April 2, 1982

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. (Trudel/Sahni).